ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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By 2030 eThekwini will be Africa's most caring and liveable City

02 June 2026 [Issue 463]

SERVICE DELIVERY DRIVEN 2026/27 BUDGET ADOPTED

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba tabled the 2026/27 budget at a recent Full Council meeting. The adopted budget took into consideration the feedback from month-long consultations with residents and different stakeholders, resulting in adjusted tariffs.

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba tabled the final 2026/27 budget of R75.3 billion during a Full Council meeting on 29 May at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre. The budget was adopted and will come into effect from 1 July 2026, with a major highlight being the lowered tariff increases.

The budget includes an operating allocation of R69 billion and a capital budget of R6.3 billion.

After being released for consultation over a month-long period, officials took into consideration the feedback and made necessary changes.

The budget directly prioritises the acceleration of repairs, upgrading of bulk infrastructure, and the full implementation of trading services turnaround strategies. It balances service delivery, infrastructure renewal, job creation, affordability, and financial sustainability.

Mayor Xaba said strong emphasis has been placed on good governance and internal controls to drive productivity and value for money. This is being done through interventions to reduce overtime abuse and improve response times as well as the use of artificial intelligence and digitalisation to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

He added that the budget reflects a clear direction to rebuild infrastructure, restore dignity in service delivery, grow the economy, and secure the financial future of eThekwini, which will ultimately build a stronger, more inclusive, and better-performing City.

FINAL TARIFF ADJUSTMENTS:

WATER
Residential: **12%** - reduction of **3%**
Business: **13%** - reduction of **3%**

ELECTRICITY
9% - reduction of **1.5%**

PROPERTY RATES
2% - reduction of **3%**

SANITATION
Residential: **8%** - reduction of **5%**
Business: **9%** - reduction of **5%**

REFUSE REMOVAL
9.5% - reduction of **3.5%**

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DRIVING TECHNOLOGY FORWARD IN THE CITY

THE INFORMATION Technology Directorate of eThekwini Municipality plays a critical role in shaping the City's digital future. Its mandate focuses on developing and promoting an Information Communications Technology (ITC) vision that addresses current challenges while enabling long-term growth. Highlighting the technological goals made by the directorate is eThekwini's Five-Year Service Delivery Milestones campaign being rolled out under the theme: Asimile Siyaqhuba: Resilience Through Adversity. The campaign highlights transformative efforts that have shaped service delivery during the 2021 to 2026 term of office.

Key strategic priorities include building a paperless environment, ensuring secure and integrated data management, and strengthening reliable ICT infrastructure, including cloud solutions. A central focus of the directorate is the use of Geographic Information Systems, which helps address issues and supports the vision of transforming eThekwini into a modern digital hub for future generations.

The Public Wi-Fi Programme forms a central pillar of the City's Digital Inclusion Strategy and Smart City agenda being driven by the Information Technology Directorate.

Director of the Information Technology Directorate Robert Dlamini said over the past five financial years, the Public Wi-Fi Programme has significantly expanded equitable internet access across municipal wards. The eThekwini Public Wi-Fi Programme has delivered measurable, city-wide digital inclusion progress.

With 75 percent of the strategic target achieved and 98 percent ward-level reach established, the programme remains a critical enabler of social equity, economic participation, and digital transformation within the City.

Strategic Target

The approved long-term strategic target for the programme is 750 public Wi-Fi Sites across the Municipality. This target aligns with a minimum of three sites per municipal ward, the deployment within high-footfall public facilities, prioritisation of underserved and previously disadvantaged communities and the expansion of affordable digital access across all 110 wards.

Infrastructure Growth and Progress

Currently 565 active Public Wi-Fi Sites have been installed (cumulative to date). Dlamini said this represents substantial progress toward universal ward-level coverage and positions the Municipality as a leading implementer of municipal digital infrastructure within the province.

Expanding Digital Infrastructure

To date, the Municipality has installed 1 633 enterprise-grade Wi-Fi access points across both indoor and outdoor environments. These access points are strategically deployed in high-demand areas to support reliable, high-capacity connectivity for residents and visitors alike.

Accessible Community Connectivity

Public Wi-Fi has been deployed at key locations that support daily life and economic activity, including:

- Municipal libraries
- Sizakala Centres
- Clinics and healthcare facilities
- Schools and community halls
- Sports grounds and public parks
- Tourism hubs such as beachfront areas
- Market precincts and transport nodes
- Key economic corridors, including Florida Road.

Empowering Residents Through Free Access

A key feature of the programme is its free data allocation model, which provides 2GB of free data per user per day, accessible through a secure self-registration portal.

This approach ensures fair and consistent access while maintaining sustainability. The Wi-Fi Programme continues to experience strong uptake and usage with over 446 000 registered users to date. There are between 24 000 and 26 000 daily connections and around 2 000 concurrent users during peak periods.

These milestones highlight the Municipality's ongoing efforts to expand digital inclusion.

KWAMASHU WELCOMES NEW YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SAFE-HUB

KWAMASHU marked a major milestone with the official opening of the Rexona Safe-Hub on 27 May. The new community facility is dedicated to youth development and long-term social impact.

The hub is the result of a partnership between eThekwini Municipality, Safe-Hub, and Rexona, all of whom share a commitment to empowering young people and investing in sustainable community growth.

The City and partners injected an investment of R88 million towards the development of this world-class facility. EThekwini Municipality played a critical role in bringing the project to life by providing land, infrastructure, and ongoing civic support and services. The development reflects the City's continued investment in KwaMashu and its belief in the potential of its young people.

Safe-Hub Managing Director, Florian Zech, emphasised the significance of the initiative, noting that KwaMashu represents exactly the kind of community where Safe-Hub can make a lasting difference. He highlighted that the new facility will provide a much-needed space for young people to unlock their potential and pursue opportunities that may previously have been out of reach.

EThekwini Municipality, together with Safe-Hub and Rexona, officially launched the Rexona Safe-Hub in KwaMashu, a new community facility dedicated to empowering and supporting youth through sport and development programmes.

Rexona, through Unilever Southern Africa, reaffirmed its commitment to driving positive change. General Manager Stefan Cloete noted that the brand's mission is rooted in enabling movement and progress, adding that KwaMashu represents a community where such movement can transform lives.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee, Councillor Thembo Ntuli, underscored the City's long-standing commitment to the area.

He described the Safe-Hub as a space where young people can learn, grow, and build better futures.

Safe-Hub's model is built on creating collaborative environments that address the broader challenges facing previously disadvantaged communities. Developed and proven in South Africa, it focuses on breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty through sustained, ecosystem-based interventions rather than temporary programmes.

Beyond its immediate impact, the KwaMashu Safe-Hub forms part of a broader vision to establish thriving community precincts that generate local economic activity. This includes creating jobs, supporting enterprises, and ensuring that development remains rooted within the community.

SUPPLEMENTARY VALUATION ROLL OPEN FOR INSPECTION

THE City has opened the inspection and objection period for the Supplementary Valuation Roll – GV 2026. Property owners are urged to inspect the roll and lodge an objection if they do not agree with the value reflected.

Section 49 notices will be emailed to all customers who are registered on the City's e-Services platform. The roll is open from 22 May to 30 June 2026.

Viewing of the roll and the objection form is available at the 5th floor, Embassy Building, 199 Anton Lembede Street or at any Sizakala Centre during respective office hours.

The roll is also available on www.durban.gov.za

Completed objection forms must be handed in at Sizakala Customer Centres or emailed to: objections.appeals@durban.gov.za

To register on e-Services, visit https://eservices.durban.gov.za/v2/

For more information, call 031 311 4441.

PLANS TO ENHANCE WASTEWATER WORKS IN THE CITY

COUNCIL has granted approval for the City to pursue an application to National Treasury's Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) to support the development of two new regional wastewater treatment works in uMdloti and Umkomaas.

The initiative forms part of the Municipality's Water and Sanitation Turnaround Strategy, which aims to stabilise and rehabilitate critical infrastructure, improve service delivery, and ensure compliance with environmental regulations across the municipal area.

Council authorised the Executive Director: Technical Services to facilitate the submission of the BFI application through the Water Partnership Office (WPO). In addition, the City Manager has been granted authority to enter into an agreement with the WPO to provide specialist, grant-funded technical support for the preparation of the application. This support will be provided at no cost to the Municipality, subject to final legal agreements.

The WPO will provide grant funding of up to R1.6 million to assist with the preparation and submission of the application. The Municipality will not be required to repay these funds.

The proposed wastewater infrastructure projects will address increasing capacity constraints at existing treatment facilities and support future development within the affected catchment areas. The new regional plants in uMdloti and Umkomaas will include the construction of modern treatment works, associated conveyance systems, and the decommissioning of several ageing facilities currently under strain. The uMdloti facility will serve the northern region, while the Umkomaas facility will serve the south.

DURBAN MSMES SHINE AT SAFPA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2026

ETHEKWINI Municipality has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting small businesses by providing 10 local enterprises with an opportunity to exhibit, and unlock markets and partnerships, at the South African Funeral Practitioners Association (SAFPA) International Convention 2026. The event was held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 24 to 28 May and attracted about 1 500 delegates from South Africa and abroad, creating a platform for exhibitors to showcase products, generate sales, build networks and access new markets. It brought together funeral practitioners, suppliers, government leaders and industry experts from across the globe to discuss innovation, development and collaboration within the sector. Participating businesses reported strong interest, meaningful engagements and future opportunities, collectively generating more than

Small business, Function Images, reported great success while exhibiting at the South African Funeral Practitioners Association International Convention 2026. They highlighted high engagement at their stand.

R200 000 in direct sales, excluding pending deals.

Print Heads engaged over 200 visitors, collected 74 contacts and achieved sales of R108 000. Amabheshu Innovators generated R11 250 in sales and attracted international interest from an investor from the United States of America who is keen on exploring potential opportunities.

Vukari Art and Lunawood also reported strong results, securing leads and sales while building relationships with funeral service companies.

ELO Interiors showcased furniture, décor and scenting solutions, attracting interest from firms in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said such events boost Durban's economy by creating jobs and stimulating business activity.

Programme Manager within the City's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Division, Nonhlanhla Khumalo said 10 selected businesses from previous Durban Business Fair Best Stand winners were supported to access markets and grow visibility.

Khumalo added that participation in exhibitions helps MSME entrepreneurs build networks and strengthen long-term growth prospects.

The SAFPA International Convention featured workshops, presentations and addresses by industry leaders including SAFPA President Dr Nomfundo Mcoyi-Zondo, who highlighted innovation and collaboration in the funeral sector.

CAREER EXPO IGNITES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ETHEKWINI LEARNERS

THE Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre was abuzz with energy as hundreds of grade 12 learners from more than 50 disadvantaged township and rural schools across eThekwini gathered for the two-day Youth Employability Indaba and Career Expo. The Indaba aims to tackle youth unemployment and bridge the critical skills gap facing young people today.

The venue was transformed into a powerhouse of opportunity, connecting learners to real career pathways, in-demand skills, and future-focused industries in a rapidly evolving digital economy.

Hosted by the eThekwini Municipality, the Indaba brought together government,

Hundreds of grade 12 learners from disadvantaged schools across eThekwini experienced a life-changing moment as they engaged with real career opportunities and pathways to a brighter future at a two-day Youth Employability Indaba and Career Expo.

private sector leaders, higher learning institutions, digital companies, and industry experts to equip learners with career guidance, digital exposure, scarce skills knowledge, and access to bursary opportunities.

Participating organisations actively showcased their services and engaged directly with learners, providing practical exposure to real-world opportunities.

Delivering a keynote address was Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala, Chairperson of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, who emphasised the urgency of preparing young people for a rapidly changing world of work.“This platform equips learners to prepare for their future careers due to the world of work changing rapidly due to technology, artificial intelligence, and automation.” he said.

ENSURE UBUNTU ADVANCING SAFETY IN DURBAN'S INNER CITY

A STRATEGIC partnership between Ensure Ubuntu and eThekwini Municipality is delivering tangible improvements in safety, cleanliness, and social upliftment in Durban's inner city. Through a co-ordinated, multi-faceted approach, the initiative is supporting the City's vision of a revitalised urban hub that is inclusive, secure, and economically vibrant. Central to this progress is a strong focus on visible safety and proactive intervention. Ensure Ubuntu's deployment of trained street ambassadors, supported by structured operational teams, has enhanced on-the-ground presence in key inner-city precincts. This visibility plays a critical role in deterring criminal activity, while also strengthening relationships between communities and safety structures.

Ensure Ubuntu is proving to be a force to be reckoned with as they work to improve safety in the inner city.

"There has been a 28 percent reduction in visible serious crime, and 19 percent faster response times resulting in a lower crime rate in the Durban Central Business District. In the past year, 101 incidents were responded to and more than 259 arrests made," said Kyle Connolly, Chief Executive Officer of Ensure Ubuntu.

Through ongoing clean-up campaigns and co-ordinated maintenance efforts, public spaces are being restored, reducing conditions that enable crime, creating safer environments for residents, businesses, and visitors alike. In the last year, teams collected approximately 416kg of waste, and collected more than 90 000 waste bags, through daily street cleaning, clearing of illegal dumping, and general infrastructure management. The partnership also recognises the importance of addressing the social drivers of crime. Proactive interventions assist vulnerable communities through food support, medical assistance, and referrals to shelters and social services. Collaboration remains at the heart of this success.

Nkululeko Mkhize, from the City's Economic Development Directorate, said: "The City welcomes the positive impact of the Ensure Ubuntu partnership in strengthening safety, improving urban management, and supporting vulnerable communities in the inner city. We look forward to more gains that will be made."

EMC MEETING SOLIDIFIES VISION FOR DURBAN'S BLUE ECONOMY

KEY stakeholders from across the maritime industry gathered at the Royal Hotel on 28 May for the eThekwini Maritime Cluster's (EMC) 16th Annual General Meeting (AGM). The event provided an important platform to reflect on the Cluster's journey, celebrate achievements and strategic partnerships, and outline plans aimed at strengthening the maritime sector within the region. Held under a shared commitment to strengthening the maritime economy, the AGM highlighted the Cluster's achievements, partnerships, and milestones over the past year, while reaffirming the sector's critical role in driving trade, investment, skills development, and economic growth. As the maritime industry continues to facilitate more than 80 percent of global trade, the gathering underscored the importance of collaboration and innovation in advancing Durban's position as a leading maritime hub.

The eThekwini Maritime Cluster hosted its 16th Annual General Meeting on 28 May at the Royal Hotel. The meeting united key port stakeholders, government officials, and industry experts to review a year of impactful growth and solidify the strategic vision for Durban's Blue Economy.

The AGM also focused on governance and accountability matters, including the presentation of the annual report, annual financial statements, and audit reports. In addition, the gathering welcomed the appointment of Sandile Khoza as the new EMC Board Chairperson and Andile Dhlomo as Deputy Board Chairperson, marking a new chapter in the leadership of the organisation, while also bidding farewell to the outgoing EMC Board Chairperson.

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli noted that the EMC has proven that when industry, government, academia, and communities work together, they can generate measurable social, economic, and environmental returns. This includes jobs and skills development, investment attraction, cleaner coastlines, and improved governance.

If you would like to submit feedback or contribute to eThekwini Weekly Bulletin

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